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Grechko Asserts Party's Control Over Military

Soviet Defense Minister and Politburo member Grechko, writing in the journal of the Institute of Marxist-Leninism, gives a ringing endorsement to the party's authority in all military matters.

The article asserts that Soviet military thinking must be "party-minded" if it is to arrive at a scientific solution to questions of military theory and practice. This, he writes, provides "a well-ried means for overcoming subjectivist and dogmatic errors and any one-sidedness in interpreting the development of military affairs and military theory and practice."

Grechko says that the experience of past wars and achievements in military thinking have only relative value for today's needs, that foreign military thinking and practices must be assessed critically, and that account must be taken of both present-day technical facilities and the new balance of military and political forces in the world.

The Soviet marshal insists that servicemen must be told how "the objective natural law of the military supremacy of the socialist states and their armed forces" operates. In essence, this "objective natural law" says that the USSR can do better with less, because it enjoys various socio-economic and political advantages stemming from the Communist system.

Noting that the USSR must continue strengthening its defenses, Grechko says that the party "always proceeds from actual reality and

existing opportunities" and "decisively opposes harebrained schemes"--charges that were levied against Khrushchev. Lest this be taken as a dig at Brezhnev, the defense minister expresses satisfaction with the Soviet defense effort and notes the importance of emphasizing efficiency when considering future defense programs.

Grechko adds that military men, defense industry officials, and economic planners must see to it that their decisions on armaments and military equipment are "justified, effective

and economical. Any miscalculation in this sphere could lead to unjustified expenditure of funds and of the country's economic and manpower resources."

The defense minister ends on the note that a distinctive feature of the party's guidance in military matters is its "ability to unravel the close interweaving" of the economic, social, political, military, domestic, and international factors that determine the path the USSR should follow in its future defense programs. (C)

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